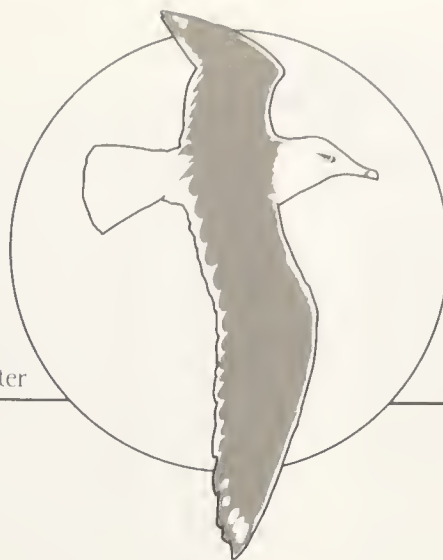


# The Gull



Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 86 No. 3 March 2002

**Join us for the Second Annual GGAS  
"Big-Day Weeding Party" at the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge  
And Help Save the California Least Tern  
Saturday, March 16, 2002  
Here's a Chance to Do Some Hands—  
On Endangered Species Restoration Work  
Get Your Hands Dirty While Helping the Endangered  
Least Terns at Alameda  
Enjoy That Incredibly Good Feeling of Having Done a GOOD Thing  
RSVP by Friday, March 11 to the GGAS Office at 510-843-2222**

**HELP GGAS CELEBRATE EARTH DAY  
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP GGAS  
CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!**

This year Earth Day organizers have decided to make San Francisco Bay the focus of Earth Day activities. GGAS is looking forward to taking part in the celebration of our most precious resource. Join us in that celebration.

We will hold GGAS Earth Day wetland restoration and Birdwatching events at Clinton Basin in Oakland. This is a wonderful hidden treasure next door to Jack London Square that will soon become a restored wetland thanks to GGAS and the Port of Oakland—see future Gull articles on this. We will also hold an event at the MLK Jr. wetland at MLK Regional Shoreline Park in Oakland. Both events will take place on Saturday, April 20. We will hold a wetland restoration event at Pier 94 in San Francisco, another hidden wetland treasure, on Sunday, April 21.

Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us for these fun and rewarding Earth Day activities. **We need volunteers to help us organize these events.** It will be fun, rewarding and not too much work; just enough to make you feel that you have accomplished something good. If you are interested in helping us out please call the GGAS office at 510-843-2222. Thanks!

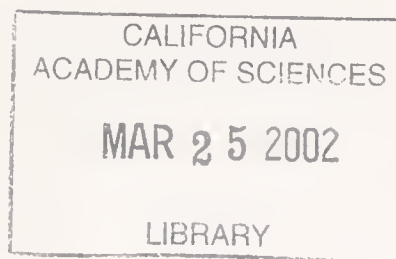
**T**he endangered California Least Terns return to Alameda in April for their yearly nesting season. Nesting success is critical for the survival of this endangered species. But success is far from assured. Each year their nesting site and surrounding lands need to be cleared of weeds.

Least Terns traditionally nested on wide-open non-vegetated sandy beaches that allowed the Terns to see approaching predators. The Alameda Naval Air Station's runways and taxiways provided just such a wide-open unobstructed expanse and the Least Terns made it their home. But with the Navy gone, the runways are cracking and weeds are sprouting with abandon all around the Least Tern Nesting site. This could prove disastrous for the Terns.

You can join with other GGAS members in saving the Least Terns from this threat. Last year over 100 people joined us in cleaning up the site and the Least Terns had one of their most successful nesting seasons.

**On Saturday, March 16,** we will hold an all-day weeding party at the Alameda Refuge.

*Continues on page 14*





December 28, 2001 – January 27, 2002

**T**his first period of 2002 saw the continuation of much from the previous month. Many vagrants located in December lingered on into the new year, and there were few novel discoveries of truly surprising birds. The remarkable invasion of wintertime Barn Swallows swelled to a crescendo in the first days of the year, then tailed off. And unfortunately, oil-soaked seabirds continued to arrive on our beaches from Pt. Reyes to Monterey, as the ongoing "San Mateo mystery oil spill" took its toll.

A new development was a notable influx of American Robins. Numerous observers commented on large aggregations in many areas of northern and especially central California, as this irruptive species moved in, likely driven by geographic patterns in food availability.

## Loons to Ducks

A Red-throated Loon on Camanche Res. Dec. 29 straddled the line between CAL and AMA Cos., teasing observers who would have liked to establish a first record for CAL (JR, LW, MG). Various observers through Jan. 13 reported seeing the **Arctic Loon** (*Gavia arctica*) found at North Beach, PRNS, MRN, Dec. 15, although most birders seeking this bird went home empty. A Pacific Loon appeared inland at the Bridgeway Island Development, YOL, Jan. 1 (CH), and 2 were seen at Carnelian Bay, L. Tahoe, PLA, Jan. 3–24 (WR; BII, MS). The **Yellow-billed Loon** (*Gavia adamsii*) reported Nov. 29 off Otter Point, Pacific Grove, MTY, was seen well by birders on a SJPT Jan. 19 (MD; mob). A possible/probable Yellow-billed was reported Jan. 12 from Crescent City, HUM (JA, DRi, HRI). Inland Red-necked Grebes continued at Shoreline L., SCL, Jan. 2–6 (MR; BB, JCo) and Whiskeytown L., SHA, Jan. 4–5 (two birds; JL, JS; RM, NM), and appeared at L. Mendocino, MEN, Jan.

20 (MMA, GM, JM).

Five to seven Laysan Albatrosses were seen at the Cordell Bank Jan. 21 (SJPT), and the Pt. Arena Cove, MEN, individual was a fixture throughout the period (mob). A Jan. 19 SJPT had 1 Black-footed Albatross on Monterey Bay. Pink-footed, Sooty, and Short-tailed Shearwaters were noted on several Monterey Bay pelagic trips, but more unusual was a Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater seen flying inside San Francisco Bay from Hayward Landing, ALA, Jan. 6 (EBB). A Flesh-footed Shearwater was seen on Monterey Bay Jan. 19 (SJPT), and at least 6 Black-vented Shearwaters passed by Capitola, SCZ, on Dec. 30 (DS).

Cattle Egrets were reported from the Cosumnes R., SAC, Dec. 27 (RCCBC); Arcata, HUM, Jan. 3 and 20 (EE; JT, MW, KR); Alviso, SCL, Jan. 24 (DW); and L. Merritt, Oakland, ALA, throughout the month (mob).

There were five reports of **Emperor Goose** (*Chen canagica*) during the period. The Bodega Bay, SON, individual delighted numerous observers throughout the month, allowing many birders close views from the Westside boat launch area, while another bird was enjoyed by many at Mad River Slough, HUM, Jan. 7–23. An additional Emperor Goose was reported at Crescent Beach, Crescent City, DN, Dec. 29 (LS), and two were reported near McMillians Rd, Klamath Glen, DN, Dec. 31–Jan. 2 (NWCRBA). Greater White-fronted, Snow, Ross's, and "Cackling" Canada Geese were reported from numerous coastal locations. Single **Trumpeter Swans** (*Cygnus buccinator*) were at Tule Lake NWR, SIS, Jan. 30 (MDo) and the RCP, SAC, Jan. 10 (JTr). Small numbers of Tundra Swans were seen in 6 counties away from the Central Valley, while at Gold Hill off Hwy 680, SOL, 3 "Bewick's" Swans were reported Jan. 18–19 (DTa, CT; fide RL).

Regional high counts included 62 Wood Ducks on Jan 27 at Almaden Reservoir, SCL (AV), at least 9 Eurasian Wigeon at Alviso, SCL, the same day (MR), and 22 Blue-winged Teal at Shollenberger Park, Petaluma, SON on Jan. 2 (RLb). A Eurasian Green-winged ("Common") Teal was viewed at Byxbee Park, Palo Alto, SCL, Jan. 5–7 (MDo, SA, KP; MR). Tufted Duck sightings included Yolo County's second record, Jan. 20 near the Yolo bypass and I-5 (MP; JS). Others were at King Salmon, HUM, Jan. 2 (RH); Bolinas Lagoon, MRN, first seen Jan. 8 (mob); Clear Lake, MEN, Jan. 11 (DWo); Las Gallinas treatment ponds, MRN, starting Jan. 17 (DRe; mob); and the continuing bird at Westlake Pond in Santa Cruz, throughout the period (mob). Two drake Harlequin Ducks found off Del Monte Beach near El Estero, MTY, on the Monterey CBC Dec. 28 continued through Jan. 3, with at least one male remaining through at least the 22nd (mob). Near Chimney Rock, PRNS, MRN, 1–2 were seen Jan. 3–12 (RLb, DB), while 1 was at Shimida Friendship Park in Richmond, CC, Jan. 6 (DA); 2 were off Castle Rock, Crescent City, DN, Jan. 12 (JA, DRi, HRI); and 1 flew past Coyote Point, SM, Jan. 27 (SS, JCI). Up to 23 plied the surf at their traditional haunts off Glass Beach, Fort Bragg, MEN, throughout the month (DT, oob). Single Long-tailed Ducks occurred at Cock Robin Bridge, Loleta, HUM, Dec. 30 (GB); off the Monterey Beach Hotel, MTY, Jan. 15–21 (MBB; RFo, BM); and in Crescent City harbor, DN (JA, DRi, HRI). Numerous Barrow's Goldeneyes wintered in ALA, SCL, SM, and SON Cos.

## Raptors to Alcids

On Jan. 13 an immature Broad-winged Hawk was seen flying southeast near the high school at Half Moon Bay, SM (RSTh). A light-phase Swainson's Hawk was at the



Sacramento Bufferlands, SAC, Dec. 27 (RCCBC), and a dark-morph Ferruginous Hawk flew over Capitola, SCZ, Jan. 22 (DS). Single Prairie Falcons turned up coastally at Fernbridge, HUM, Jan. 2 (DF); along Estero Rd., SON, Jan. 4 (RLb); and near Grant Lake, SCL, Jan. 24 (FV, BR). The Byxbee Park, Palo Alto, SCL, bird continued through Jan. 16 (mob).

The **Demoiselle Crane** (*Grus virgo*) last seen Nov. 28 turned up again Jan. 17 on Staten Island, SJ, with recently arrived groups of Lesser Sandhill Cranes (MiE), and was seen through Jan. 20 (fide WH).

Five Pacific Golden-Plovers and a continuing possible American Golden-Plover were seen n. of Pigeon Point, SM, Jan. 3 (DWe). On Jan. 9, one Pacific Golden-Plover was found at the Lodi Sewage Ponds, SJ (KM), and on the 12th a juvenile was near the shack at Johnson Oyster Farm, PRNS (BMe). Mountain Plover reports were few: at least 25 in Panoche Valley, SBT, Jan. 12 (CK, mob); 12 nw of Rds 14 & 95, YOL, the same day (SH, mob); and 5 along Robinson Rd., SOL, Jan. 26 (LC). Single Lesser Yellowlegs continued at Menlo Park, SM, Jan. 9–27 (AE; RSTh), and Alviso, SCL, Dec. 31 (MR), with 2 there Jan. 17 (FV, BR). One was present at RCP, SAC, Jan. 10–19 (JTr), and another at Merced NWR, MER, Jan. 26 (JRY). Red Knots were reported Jan. 4 from Bodega Bay, SON (5; BA), and Jan. 6 from the Klopp Lake Islands, HUM (2; RH). At MacKerricher SP's Laguna Point, MEN, 3–5 Rock Sandpipers were seen during high tides throughout the period (DT; CV, BV), while 1 occurred at Trinidad, HUM, Jan. 26 (MH). And although Alviso's Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was not relocated after Dec. 27, a Ruff was seen here Dec. 31 and Jan. 15–18 (VB; MR, FV, BR). Another Ruff was spotted by various observers looking for Bodega Bay's Emperor Goose, generally from the Westside Park Boat Launch, SON, Jan. 7–20. Red Phalaropes were seen on Monterey Bay, MTY, Jan. 19 (SJPT, DR).

The month's four Jaeger sightings

included a Pomarine Jan. 12 on a Monterey Bay PT (LC); a Parasitic from Patrick's Pt State Park, HUM, Jan. 17 (JA); and 2 jaeger species on a PT off Moss Landing, Jan. 15 (RC). An inland Mew Gull was at Kutras L., SHIA, Jan. 3 (BD; mob), and another was at Whiskeytown L., SHIA the next day (JS, JL). On Jan. 4, a bird described as a probable 1st-winter "Vega" Herring Gull, the eastern Siberian subspecies, was noted at Elkhorn Slough across from Moonglow Dairy, MTY (DVP, MB). Just as hard to identify were single birds described as "Kumlien's" Gulls (considered either a subspecies of Iceland, or a Thayer's x Iceland hybrid) from Yolo Co. Central Landfill Jan. 1 (JK) and Moss Landing, MTY, Jan. 9 (DVP, MB). On Jan. 4, inland Thayer's Gulls numbered 9 among Whiskeytown L., Kutras L., and Lewiston Dam, SHA (JS, JL). The dependable **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*) continued at L. Cunningham, SCL, throughout the month (mob). Western Gulls showed up inland on the Sacramento River, SHA, Dec. 27 (Redding CBC), and on L. Mendocino, MEN, Jan. 12 (DT), with 2 separate individuals at the Yolo Co. Central Landfill through Jan. 5 & 12 (JK). This landfill also hosted 4–5 different individual Glaucous Gulls Dec 28–Jan.18 (JK). Other Glaucous Gulls graced L. Cleone in MacKerricher SP Dec. 30 (DT); Pilarcitos Cr. mouth in Half Moon Bay, SM, the same day (RSTh); Moss Landing, MTY, Jan. 1 (Moss Landing CBC); Fort Baker pier at the Golden Gate Bridge, MRN, Jan. 5 (JW); and the Hayward Shoreline, ALA, Jan. 6 (EBB). Two Caspian Terns were at the Elk River Spit, HUM, Jan. 6 (RH), and an Elegant Tern was on the beach at Capitola, SCZ, Dec. 30 (DS). High count for the Charleston Slough, SCL, Black Skimmers was 20 (MR, MM).

Officials concluded that the "San Mateo mystery oil spill" resulted from a ship, the SS Jacob Luckenbach, that sank in 1953, 17 miles sw of the Golden Gate Bridge. Intermittent

leakage from this wreck is now thought to have caused several previous mystery spills, and officials are presently trying to determine how best to deal with the situation. This winter's event has claimed many seabirds, the vast majority of them Common Murres. As of Feb. 8, 914 birds had been retrieved dead and 627 alive. Of those captured alive, 413 had died, 206 had been cleaned and released, and 8 were still being cleaned.

Small numbers of Ancient Murrelets were noted on Monterey Bay, MTY, Jan. 13 & 19 (SB, SJPT, DR). One Horned Puffin was seen from a Monterey Bay PT, MTY, Jan. 13 (SB), and one Tufted Puffin highlighted a Jan. 12 Monterey Bay PT (LC).

## Doves to Thrashers

Along Green Valley Rd., SCZ, a Long-eared Owl was heard calling at 2:30 a.m. Jan. 1 (DS) – a nice bird to begin the year with! On Jan. 19, 4 Long-eared Owls were flushed from junipers at a regular site in the Panoche Hills, SBT (PN). Up to 5 Short-eared Owls frequented Mad River Slough, HUM, throughout the period (mob), while elsewhere 4 were on the RCCBC, SAC, Dec. 27, and singles occurred at Wilder Ranch, SCZ, Jan. 3 (BS); Mare Island, SOL, Jan. 19 (RL); Arcata Marsh, HUM, Jan. 20 (JT, MW, KR); and Palo Alto Baylands, SCL, Jan. 27 (TG). A Saw-whet Owl was on Green Valley Rd, SCZ, Jan. 5 (SR, RF). Near Loma Prieta, SCL, Jan. 4, a Common Poorwill was heard singing after sunset, at a temperature of 46 degrees F and elevation of ~5,400 ft. Some Poorwills winter in the area but are generally dormant except during very warm spells (DS).

Three Costa's Hummingbird reports were posted, one an adult male visiting a yard in Placer Co. Dec. 25–31 (RMa), one on private property in San Joaquin Co. Dec. 29 (fide WH), and 3 at Little Panoche Valley Wildlife Area Dec. 30 (ES, oob). Allen's

Continues on page 5

# Join Us in a Most Memorable Experience

One of the most rewarding experiences we can imagine is enjoying a beautiful nature and birding site and helping others to enjoy it also. That's the experience you will enjoy when you join our team of Audubon Canyon Ranch hosts.

Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) is an organization that now operates three sanctuaries in the North Bay, two in Marin and one in Sonoma County. It started out when a group of people heard that there was a plan to create a new residential community in Bolinas Lagoon. The Golden Gate, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies stepped in and joined with local folks in defeating that development proposal. Shortly after, the ACR Bolinas Lagoon Preserve heron and egret rookery was purchased, again with the help of the Audubon Societies. In fact, we recently came across a tax paper that indicates that GGAS might have been the purchas-

ing agent and briefly owned the Bolinas Preserve before it was transferred to ACR.

In any case, ever since that time GGAS has served on the Board of ACR and has worked to make ACR the great sanctuary system that it is.

One of the joys of working with ACR is that you get to go to the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve and see all those beautiful egrets and herons preening, courting, mating, laying eggs, incubating, hatching and then fledging the chicks. It's the wonderful part of nature, and most of us see all too little of it nowadays.

Well, here's your excuse to get away for a day and experience one of the Bay Area's most delightful nature preserves. Become an ACR host. Each year from mid-March to mid-July the Bolinas Preserve is open **weekends** to all visitors. The Bolinas Preserve gets thousands of visitors each year and we need volunteers to help direct the visitors to the trails, the birds, the nature museum, the bookstore and of

course, the bathrooms.

It's a lot of fun. ACR will send you all the information you need so that you will be well informed when people ask you questions about the birds. You'll meet interesting people and provide a real service to ACR. And you get to see the birds and the redwoods yourself (we have enough hosts each weekend day, so that everyone gets time to go off for a walk to enjoy the preserve).

You will be hosting with fellow GGAS members who are a very enjoyable bunch of people. After all, you are one.

Our hosting days are April 6, 7, 28, May 27 (Memorial Day), June 8, 9, 29, 30

So please call our ACR-Host volunteer-coordinator Bill Hering at 415-863-3625 and sign up for spring day at ACR's Bolinas Preserve. Call Bill and work out a date you can make and have a great time. We look forward to seeing you there.

---

## Donations

### Golden Eagle (\$1000 or more)

Beryl Ness

### Peregrine Falcon (\$500 or more)

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Leach  
Mary Schaefer

### Least Tern (\$200 or more)

Steven Sherman  
David Shunick  
Terry and Zeo Coddington  
Marie and Alex Karp  
Roger and Audre Newman  
Mary and Robert Mayer  
Leslie Lethridge

### Clapper Rail (\$100 or more)

Mary Anne Miller, Barbara and Robert Brandriff, Susan and Michael Meadows, Sylvia Sabel, Steve Margolian, Bruce Bagnell, Barbara Anderson, Barbara Brandriff, Brenda Bailey, Jan Andersen

### Gifts (to \$99)

Gloria Markowitz, Matthew Zlatunich, Ruth Dement, Daniel Roth, Colleen Vetter (STQ), Dave Rice, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Oswalt, Krehe and Katherine Ritter, William Hudson, Meredith Klein, Dorie and Herb Behrstock, Hugh Harvey, Judith Irving (STQ), Morton Paley, Judy Signorelli (STQ), Diane Wilson, Arthur Ottolini (STQ), Michael Sherwood, Kristi Whitfield, Julius Bankston, Marguerite Richter, Frank Hand (STQ), Mary Forth, Robert Mullaney, George

Bing, Rebecca Robinson, Harry McQuillen, Cordelia Neal, Don Denison, Susan Patton, Ben Bowen, Heather and Rosmarin, Helen Desai, Holly Farmer, Gerry Bobb, Lilian Fujii, Martha Davis, Carolyn Sindall, Kim White, John Conley, Anne Wilson

### In Memorium

Dr. Richard Cooper in memory of **Lucile P. Cooper**. Atsuko Sue Yusa in memory of **Clifford Sojourner**. Mrs. Afton E. Crooks in memory of **Robert Schweitzer**.

A bequest to the Golden Gate Audubon Society helps make it possible for us to continue the good work we do in helping to preserve our natural world for future generations. If you are interested in setting up a bequest we have a team of experts who will be glad to help you. Please call Arthur Feinstein at our GGAS Office for more information. Our phone number is 510-843-2222. Thanks.



## Observations...

Continued from page 3

Hummingbirds are notable for their strikingly early return from the south each year; 2002's first report came Jan. 7 from Santa Cruz (DS).

Lewis's Woodpeckers turned up at East Bay RP, Clayton, CC, Jan. 6 (PB); on McIntyre Rd, SJ, Jan. 9 (RhMa); and along Bailey Rd, SCL, all period (mob). Six Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported from our region: 2 in Ferndale, HUM, 30 Dec.-Jan. 11 (GL; mob); 1 on Jan. 10 along the San Lorenzo R., SCZ (GT); and continuing birds at Fairway Estates, YOL, Jan. 1-3 (CH; JK); and throughout the period at Caledonia Park, Pacific Grove, MTY (DR) and at the Santa Clara Water District Pond, SCL (mob). Single male Red-naped Sapsuckers were discovered Dec. 27 on the Valensin Unit, Costello Forest (RCCBC), and Jan. 4 n. of Weaverville along Hwy 3, SHA (JS, JL), while a hybrid Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker was found on Sweetwater Cr., EDO, Dec. 30 (AEn). Seven Pileated Woodpeckers were reported from sites in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Cos. (DS, RHe, CE).

In the flycatcher category, a Western Wood-Pewee was found at Hauser Marsh, HUM, Dec. 24 (PL). A Hammond's Flycatcher Jan. 19 at RCP, SAC (JTr) was preceded by a "Western" Flycatcher 9 days earlier (JTr), while a Pacific-slope Flycatcher was recorded on the Moss Landing CBC Jan. 1. In Ferndale, HUM, an Eastern Phoebe was located on Dec. 30 (GB). Another Eastern Phoebe was found Jan. 19 at Merced NWR, MER (AC, RR, LT, DK). The **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) at Lakeside Arboretum at Lake Merritt in Oakland, ALA, continued through at least Jan. 20 (mob), and San Francisco's wintering Tropical Kingbird continued at the Bison Paddock in GGP throughout the period (mob). A possible Western Kingbird was reported Jan. 5 from the jct. of Johnson & Clements Rds, SJ (PC, DC).

A Northern Shrike visited Butte Valley National Wildlife Area, SIS,

Dec. 29 (MDo). A Cassin's Vireo was found New Years Day at Owl Canyon, Bodega Head, SON (RLb), and a possible **Blue-headed Vireo** (*Vireo solitarius*) was in Eureka, HUM Jan. 9 (RH). A Clark's Nutcracker was heard at Mt. St. Helena, SON, Jan. 12 (DSH). Tree and Violet-green Swallows were noted at 13 sites across HUM, MTY, SCL, SCZ, SF, and SON Cos., with high counts of 85 Violet-greens forced down by rain at L. Cunningham, SCL, Jan. 2 (MR), and 100 Violet-greens Jan. 2 at Sunset SB, SCZ (DS). Two Northern Rough-winged Swallows flew by Carmel Valley Golf Course, MTY, Dec. 28 (MCBC), and 2 more were over Sunset SB, SCZ, Jan. 1-2 (DS, Moss Landing CBC).

Barn Swallows continued their unprecedented invasion of our region throughout early January, with a total of at least 180 birds reported from at least 24 locations in 8 counties (HUM, MTY, SAC, SCL, SCZ, SF, SM, SON). These figures are conservative, as they include only maximum numbers from particular locations that hosted birds on multiple days, and it is very likely that not all reports reached this compiler. The Moss Landing CBC alone recorded 88 Barn Swallows from 7 field parties, on Jan. 1. Leading the way was the Sunset Beach area, SCZ, with 35 individuals, but this total was surpassed the next day when 55 birds were recorded here (DS). The timing of the invasion was striking, peaking around New Years Day, and ending less than 2 weeks later. Six reports occurred Dec. 27-31, 17 reports occurred Jan. 1-4, 5 reports occurred Jan. 6-13, and no more occurred until a single straggler was found on the 27th. The invasion began earlier in December; during the previous period (see last month's column) 40 Barn Swallows were recorded from the region.

A Rock Wren appeared on the final day of the year in Pebble Beach, MTY (BT), and one heard Jan. 16 in a SCZ Co. quarry is apparently wintering (DS). Mt. St. Helena, SON, had 1-2 Rock Wrens and 2 Canyon Wrens Jan. 12 (DSH). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Garrapata SP, MTY (AC), and 2

were in SCZ Co. Jan. 3 (DS). The Lockeford, SJ, Townsend's Solitaire was last seen on Dec. 29 (WH, JR, CP), while new ones showed up Jan. 7-14 in the Almaden Foothills, SCL (BHa); Jan. 16 in the Soquel Demonstration StF (DS); and Jan. 27 at Uvas Canyon CP, SCL (AV). Numerous observers commented on the high numbers of American Robins in northern California this winter, particularly in the central and southern portions of our region. Indeed, preliminary data from regional Christmas Counts confirms unusually high Robin numbers this year. Robins can be irruptive, moving into an area *en masse* when driven by patterns of food scarcity and abundance, and this appears to be the case this winter. The Montara, SM, Sage Thrasher continued through Jan. 3 (mob) at a roadside berry bush until the food ran out, then was relocated Jan. 25 at a different berry bush nearby (AJ). Meanwhile, a Sage Thrasher put in a one-day showing at Mt. Davidson, SF, Jan. 22 (PS).

## Wood Warblers to Finches

For wood warblers, in addition to those shown in the chart, 5 Yellow, 3 Black-throated Gray, 7 Hermit, and 1 Wilson's Warblers were reported. Summer Tanagers continued at Soquel Cr., SCZ, Dec. 31 (JAn, CF, DS), and at Middle L., GGP, SF, Jan. 6 (ASH). Although we all thought they were insectivores, a third one was located Dec. 28 at a Jack-in-the-Box fast-food restaurant (at the "fly-thru," perhaps?) in Monterey (MCBC). Western Tanagers, meanwhile, popped up Dec. 27 at the Valensin Ranch, SAC (RCCBC), and Jan. 20 at Bercut Equitation Center, GGP, SF (RFe).

The Green-tailed Towhee repeat-wintering along Coyote Cr. north of Tasman, SCL, was observed Jan. 4-22 (mob). A Chipping Sparrow was at the cemetery in Monterey Dec. 28 (MCBC), while at least 2 of the 6 wintering Chippies found on the Contra Costa CBC remained at Hidden Lake

Continues on page 12



# Field Trips Calendar

## **Sunday, March 3, STRYBING ARBORETUM, San Francisco.**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum [9th Ave. and Lincoln Way] for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley, Heather Chase, Rick Ferrick with Helen McKenna and Linda Lyons as Strybing Arboretum Docents. [415] 566-3241

## **Sunday, March 10, ALAMEDA CREEK/COYOTE HILLS/QUARRY LAKES BICYCLE TRIP.**

Approx. 20 miles total, all on bike trail, very little uphill. Meet at 10:15 at the Isherwood Staging Area. We will bike along the Alameda Creek Regional Trail to Coyote Hills Regional Park, then back up the trail to Quarry Lakes Regional Park, only recently opened to the public and which is adjacent to the Isherwood Staging Area. Raptors, ducks, shore birds.

**Directions:** By car, take I-880 to Fremont and take the Alvarado Blvd/Fremont Blvd exit. Go east on Fremont Blvd. About 0.5 mi east of the freeway, turn left onto Paseo Padre Parkway, which crosses Decoto Rd in about 1 mi. Just after crossing Decoto Rd., Paseo Padre parallels Alameda Creek; 0.8 mi after Decoto Rd., turn left onto Isherwood Dr., crossing the creek, and then immediately right into the Isherwood Staging Area.

If coming from the peninsula via the Dumbarton Bridge, continue on Hwy 84, which crosses I-880 and becomes Decoto Rd, and then turn right onto Paseo Padre Parkway and follow above directions.

Using BART, exit at Union City

Station, and go 1.5 mi. south on Decoto Rd to the Alameda Creek Trail, then left/east along the trail 0.8 mi to the Isherwood Staging Area, which is on the north side of Alameda Creek and on the east side of Isherwood Way. The trail on the north side of the creek is unpaved, and the trail on the south side is paved; if you use the south side, exit the trail on the west side of the Isherwood bridge and then cross Isherwood and the bridge before turning right into the staging area. Dress for cool, windy weather. Bicycle helmet obligatory. Bring lunch and liquids. Optional Afghan dinner at Salang Pass Restaurant, 37462 Fremont Blvd, after trip. Please RSVP for dinner. Trip Leader: Kathy Jarrett, [510] 547-1233, kathy\_jarrett@yahoo.com

## **Wednesday, March 13, MINI-TRIP TO MITCHELL CANYON, Contra Costa County.**

Meet at 9:30 a.m. Take Hwy. 24 through the Caldecott Tunnel. In Walnut Creek, take Ygnacio Valley Rd. exit. Go approximately 8 mi, then turn right onto Clayton Rd. After 1 mi turn right on Mitchell Canyon Rd. and continue to the parking lot at the end of the road. [Parking outside entrance will avoid fee.] This is a delightful area with many songbirds and easy streamside walking. Be prepared for mud and bring your lunch. Rain cancels. Leaders: Anna Wilcox [510] 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman. [\$]

## **Saturday, March 16, BODEGA BAY.**

Meet at the corner of Eastshore and Hwy. 1 about 1 mi north of Diekmann's Store. We will begin by birding the rich Bodega Harbor area and Bodega Head, covering as many spots as time and the birds permit. 9:00-12:00 Bring lunch. Rain cancels. Beginners welcome. Co-leaders: Nancy Conzett [707] 875-2231 and Meg Pauletich [925] 254-6068

## **Sunday, March 17, SPENCEVILLE WILDLIFE AREA, Yuba/Nevada County.**

Meet at Hammond Grove Park, on the south side of Hwy 20, between Marysville and Smartville at 8 a.m. [This is very near a turnoff to the north to Brown's Valley and just east of a bridge over Dry Creek.] Driving time from the Bay Area is about 2 hrs. We will bird this area briefly, looking for Common Merganser and riparian birds. We'll then caravan to the Spenceville Wildlife Area. This is a delightful area of oak foothills and small streams, with the chance for great looks at Lewis' Woodpecker, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and a variety of woodland species. Bring lunch and plan to be out most of the day. Some moderate walking along dirt roads and trails. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Bob Lewis [510] 845-5001 and Rusty Scalf [510] 666-9936 <Rlewis0727@aol.com> <Rscalf@jps.net> \$ [parking fee at the park/campground]

## **Saturday, March 23, SAN FRANCISCO BIRD BLITZ.**

In this annual blitz we expect to tally over 100 different species within the City limits. On this year's mad dash, we look to exceed all previous records, and will begin at 7 a.m. sharp. Meet at the north end of Van Ness Av [past North Point – the last cross street] at the foot of Municipal Pier. From there we will caravan to other sites including Golden Gate Park, Sutro Baths, Lake Merced and Candlestick Point. Bring [snacks, a portable] lunch and liquids. We will bird until dusk, then adjourn to a restaurant for dinner to recap the day's observations. Leader: Alan Hopkins [415] 644-0983 [\*]

## **Sunday, March 24, ARROWHEAD MARSH, Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline, Alameda County.**

NOTE new directions because the entrance road to Arrowhead Marsh is



closed. From Berkeley, take 880 south to the Hegenberger exit. After exiting the freeway, turn right onto Hegenberger towards the airport, and right on Edgewater. Meet at the Garretson Point parking lot at the end of Edgewater at 8:00 a.m. for this half-day trip. Possibilities: thousands of shorebirds and ducks, raptors, Clapper Rail, Red Knot and more. Bring scope if you have one. Beginners and all levels of birders welcome. Rain cancels. Leader: Anthony Fisher [510] 658-8769 Loveisant@aol.com

**Saturday, April 6, END OF GRANT AVE., San Leandro.**

From Berkeley, take 880 south. In San Leandro you will arrive at a point where the 238 Fwy begins [the 238 going towards 580]. Stay in the right-most lane and leave the 880 as if heading towards 238. Almost right away you will see a Washington Ave. exit on the right. Take the Washington exit. At the base of that offramp, you will be on Beatrice. Turn left on Beatrice then right on Washington. Head south on Washington, past Lewelling, to Grant Ave. Turn right on Grant and take Grant all the way to the end. There is a small East Bay Regional Park parking lot next to a restaurant called Mei Ling's. We will meet there at 8 a.m. for a half day trip. We hope to see shorebirds. Leader: Rusty Scalf [510] 666-9936. Rscalf@jps.net

**Sunday, April 7, STRYBING ARBORETUM, San Francisco.**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum [9th Ave. and Lincoln Way] for this regular first Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley, Heather Chase, Rick Ferrick with Helen McKenna and Linda Lyons as

Strybing Arboretum Docents. [415] 566-3241

**Wednesday, April 10, MINI-TRIP TO SUNOL REGIONAL PARK.**

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the ranger station parking lot inside the park near the green barn. Take Hwy. 680 south, about eight miles beyond the intersection of Hwy. 580. Exit at Calaveras Rd., go left [south] and follow the signs to Sunol Regional Park, about 5 miles. We may see Lark Sparrows, Golden Eagles, Bullock's Orioles, plus resident birds of the area. Bring lunch. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox [510] 351-9301, and Jean-Marie Spoelman \$ [\*]

**Thursday-Sunday, April 25-28, OHLONE WILDERNESS BACKPACK TRIP.**

This is a very strenuous 20 mile hike over 4 days and 3 campsites. We will begin at Sunol Regional Wilderness, alt. 300' and end at Del Valle Regional Park in Livermore, alt. 750', attaining a max. alt. of 3817' at Rose Peak. Great views, wild flowers, and birds. The first morning will be spent birding along Alameda Creek and the Little Yosemite area, looking for Acorn Woodpeckers, Black Phoebe and Yellow-billed Magpies before heading up to our first campsite. Our last campsite overlooks Del Valle reservoir, and we will have an after-dinner birding hike along the ridge. The final morning we will look for Wild Turkeys near the reservoir. There is water at each established campsite, but it must be filtered. Pack light, but be prepared for cool evenings and warm days, poison oak and rattlesnakes. Participants are responsible for their own food and gear. Some cars will need to be ferried to Del Valle and we will carpool back to Ohlone. Reservations necessary, maximum of 12 people. There is a fee for camping and a fee for the Ohlone Wilderness Regional Trail Permit. Leader: Kathy Jarrett, [510] 547-1255

kathy\_jarrett@yahoo.com [\$]

**Saturday, April 20, POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL ALL-DAY BIRDING BLITZ**

[Joint activity: GGAS and National Park Service.] Meet at 8 a.m. at the Five Brooks Trailhead parking lot, approximately 3.5 miles south of Olema on the west side of Hwy. 1. We will bird the Five Brooks Pond area, Limantour Spit, Drakes Beach, Chimney Rock and Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley for a multi-habitat trip that usually tallies over 100 species. Bring water, food, and wear layered clothing for variable weather. Leaders: Leon Abrams [415] 453-9980 [work], [510] 843-4107 [home] and Cathy Purchis. [\*]

**Saturday, April 20, SAN BRUNO MOUNTAINS**

[San Mateo County, north of South San Francisco]. Meet at 8 a.m. at the headquarters parking lot on Guadalupe Canyon Parkway on this half day trip, which is a joint activity with the Friends of San Bruno Mountains. We expect to see birds migrating through as well as returning breeding birds such as Bullock's Orioles, Western Tanager, flycatchers and Wrentits. Winter Wren is particularly abundant in the San Bruno Mountains. Leaders: Herb Brandt [415] 239-2711 and Doug Allshouse. \$ to park in parking lot if gate is open.

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (\*).

**Problems, etc.:** If you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, or IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEAD A TRIP, call Susan Groves, Field Trips Committee Chair, (510) 654-5954. groves@sfsu.edu

# 2001 Oakland Christmas Bird Count Results

By Clyde Morris & Joelle Buffa, Co-compilers

It was a great Oakland Christmas Bird Count (CBC). There is no other way to put it. December was noted for almost daily rain. However, Count Day turned out to be warm and sunny with calm winds and seas. The majority of Area Leaders reported having great success with new species added to their areas' list, high numbers of individuals for many species, and all round pleasure birding with friends new and old on the 62nd annual Oakland CBC. This year we had 163 field observers. Fifteen feeder watchers counted the birds in their yards from the comfort of their homes. We note that in the late 1970s we had between 28 and 49 feeder watchers. They are frequently the best at seeing some of our more uncommon species such as the **white-throated sparrows**. If you are a feeder watcher, consider participating in **next year's count on Sunday, December 15, 2002**.

Once again we had rare birds, some highs and lows for regular species, and a few noteworthy trends. Good news: bird numbers are up again, with 128,517 individuals counted, a number only exceeded one other year (154,015 individuals in 1992) since the early 1980s. The number of species seen (171) was a bit on the low side. Interestingly, the last time we had this low number of species was in 1992 when we also had a high number of individuals. Is there a correlation between high numbers of individuals and low species numbers? We can't think of why this would be true but the numbers don't lie! Sixty-two years of past Oakland CBC data is available online at <WWW.BIRDSOURCE.ORG>. Check out the numbers yourself!

We had fewer rare species seen than usual for the Oakland Count, but these were goodies: Neil Whitehouse and Lina Jane Prairie found what may be the best bird of the decade for the Oakland CBC:

**dusky-capped flycatcher**; a species never seen on the count before. It was seen and photographed in the Lake Merritt Botanical Garden by many appreciative birders during the weeks following their report. Neil and Lina also observed the female **tuffed duck** at Lake Merritt for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row. A **Ross' goose** was seen near Arrowhead Marsh, a species only seen 5 times since 1974. A group of **wild turkeys** was reported during count week. This would have been the first time this species was seen on the count but our Rare Bird Committee decided not to count it without a written description being submitted by the person who saw the birds. Next year we should send out a wild turkey SWAT team to search for and document this species! **Surfbirds** (36) were seen near the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza. They have only been seen twice before; 4 last year and 2 in 1998 at the same location. Two **Selasphorus hummingbirds** were found again in the U.C. Botanical Garden. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year out of the past 9 years that they have been found there. A **blue-gray gnatcatcher** at Lafayette Reservoir was well documented, being found there for the third year in a row. A **hermit warbler** was seen at Tilden Regional Park Nature Center and a **Wilson's warbler** was seen during count week in the south end of Tilden; a species only seen three other times since 1974.

Sometimes high counts for our more common species can be just as intriguing as the rare species. This year was no exception. This year might be referred to in the future as "The Year of the Thrush". **American robin** numbers were off the charts; 29,421 observed on Count Day compared to an average of 6,825. Numbers of **hermit thrushes** (294) and **varied thrushes** (349) were the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest ever recorded on the count. We understand high numbers of thrushes were seen

throughout the Bay Area this winter. We even had robins for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in our tiny backyard in Fremont.

This year, we had **record high** numbers for more than the normal number of species (averages are based on 27 year period 1974-2000): **red-shouldered hawk** (39 counted; average=8), **peregrine falcon** (7; average=2), **black oystercatcher** (14; average=1), **whimbrel** (65; average=16), **surfbird** (36; average=1), **western sandpiper** (16,598; average=7,219), **black phoebe** (167; average=87), **Nuttall's woodpecker** (116; average=54), **hairy woodpecker** (25; average=9), **American crow** (339; average=114), pygmy nuthatch (120; average=22), **orange-crowned warbler** (14; average=4), and **Townsend's warbler** (119, average=58).

For lowlights, record lows were recorded for the following species: **green-winged teal** (47), **white-winged scoter** (3), **American coot** (2,011), and **loggerhead shrike** (2). This is the fewest number of record lows that we have had since we began compiling the Oakland CBC in 1996.

Interesting trends continued this year. The 39 **red-shouldered hawks** indicated a continued expansion in the Oakland area with double digits being seen every year since 1994; single digits from 1982 to 1994 and hardly seen at all before 1982. The record low for **loggerhead shrike** (2) is not confined to the Oakland area. Many are reporting that the population of loggerhead shrike is trending lower and researchers are beginning to try to find out why. The increase in **pygmy nuthatches** continues its pattern along Oakland's forested ridge tops. This species was first seen on the Oakland count in 1981 (1 seen) and then again in 1986 (4). It has now been seen every year since 1986, but this is the 1<sup>st</sup> year the count has been



over 100 individuals. The previous high was 86 in 1999.

Thanks to the faithful area leaders and new recruits. Consistency and knowledge of the areas produce the best results so we hope our new leaders will continue to lead for many more years. Thanks to Art and

Kathryn at the GGAS office for their support. We are grateful to Ann Howard for arranging the Countdown Dinner, William Giddens for the catered meal, and Diane Ahlgren for collecting money at the door. We appreciate the work of the Rare Bird Committee: John Luther

and Luke Cole. Finally, a big round of applause to all who participated in the count and shared their great stories at the count dinner. We hope to see you all next year on **Sunday, December 15, 2002!**

*Continues on page 12*

## Birders Needed for Good Deeds and Profit

**T**he Golden Gate Audubon Society (GGAS) is offering a great opportunity for birders to earn money at a high hourly rate for helping us perform a bird census of the Bayview/Hunters Point/ Candlestick Point watershed and, at the same time, teach high school students from the local community how to bird.

GGAS, along with several other environmental organizations, has been awarded a grant to help the Bayview/Hunters Point community create a Watershed Plan for the Bayview/Hunters Point/Candlestick Point watershed.

Our part of this program is to identify the wildlife values currently existing in this watershed so that the planning effort can take these values into consideration and plan for their preservation, enhancement and restoration.

To achieve this goal we will under-

take a year-long census of the area (Hunters Point Shipyard and Candlestick Point Recreation Area will be the primary sites). We need your help to do this. We are looking for 6 birders who can perform the census for one year. The time commitment would be for a 3 or 4-hour census, one day per week for one year (It may be less often. A scientist we will hire will determine the census procedure.)

You will be paid \$30 per hour for this work (about \$6500 per person for the year).

As part of this program we will also introduce high school students to the joys of birding and to the experience of performing scientific field research. Each of our GGAS birders will lead a team of four high school students who will take part in this census program. These will be motivated kids with whom it should be fun to bird and learn. We will also

have field trips to other Bay Area wetlands to give the kids a more complete concept of wetlands and birding.

If you are interested in this program please call Arthur Feinstein at the GGAS office at 510-843-2222 or at his home at 415-282-5937. We look forward to hearing from you.

Timing: We hope to start the census program in April.

Qualifications: You must be able to identify, at a minimum, our common water and land birds.

We will also be censusing for butterflies, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. We will provide both GGAS leaders and the high school students with identification training sessions for these creatures. You do not have to be able to identify these critters to apply for this job. It's a great opportunity to learn about them.

## Come Celebrate Earth Day!

**G**AS' newest Bay Restoration Project is on the site of the former Seabreeze Yacht Harbor at 5th Ave & the Embarcadero in Oakland. Come celebrate the groundbreaking of this wetland enhancement project on Saturday, April 20th.\* Bring your tools to help eradicate the invasive spartina alterniflora. Refreshments and scopes for viewing will be on hand.

GGAS is working with the Port of

Oakland, the Fifth Avenue Neighborhood Assoc., and SF Baykeeper on this wetland project which will preserve one of the few remaining sections of undeveloped shoreline. The result will be a more natural habitat gradient, consisting of subtidal (open water), intertidal mudflat and sand flats, tidal marsh and upland habitats. There will also be a small island to provide an unvegetated water bird roosting habitat that restricts disturbance by people and

dogs. These improvements will benefit shorebirds and waterbirds in the estuary. We're very excited about the project and hope you will join us and our partners on the 20th.

\*Caveat: Definite date, time and directions will be included in April Gull, pending confirmation from the Port; or you may call the office for more details - (510) 843-2222. See you in April!

# The Birds Are Hungry

## It's Our Spring Seed Sale Time!

It's been a while since our Fall seed sale and if your birds were like ours, they were eating an awful lot of seed to keep up their energy levels. So, it's time to stock up once again with birdseed to feed our avian friends over the next few months. Please send in your order and make sure that there are a bunch of happy birds in your back yard.

Most of our native birds favor either sunflower seeds (chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, white-crowned sparrows, purple and house finches) or niger seed (goldfinches, pine siskins and chickadees).

Our next birdseed sale pick-up will take place on Friday, March 29th from 3-6pm and Saturday, March 30th from 9am - 12noon. While we do normally have birdseed available at the office, this is an opportunity to pick it up outside office hours.

If you wish to order seed, please fill out the adjacent seed-order form and mail it to us with a check made out to GGAS, **with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Orders should be received in the GGAS office by Thursday, March 21st.**

We will have plenty of extra seed on hand so if you didn't order enough, or forgot to order any at all, please come on down to the office. We'll have the seed you need!

Volkman seed is the best there is, it contains no waste seed and has been cleaned of debris and dust so you get what you pay for. If you have a question about which kind of seed to buy, give us a call at the GGAS Office, 510-843-2222.

The Duncraft Feeder is a 16" long tube seed-feeder and, as always, we have a variety of hummingbird feeders, a fun thistle seed feeder (the birds twirl around as if on a carousel) and thistle stockings.

Here are some books we have in stock, in addition to the standard field guides (*price includes member 10% discount and sales tax*):

- Best Birding in Napa and Solano Counties** published by the Napa-Solano Audubon Society (\$11.75)
- Birding Northern California** listing almost 300 birding sites, including 81 prime locations (\$18.50)
- Birds of Northern California Annotated Field List** by Joe Morlan, et al. identifying which month, where and in what habitat the bird can be found (\$5.75)
- Now and Then - San Francisco's Natural History** by Harry Fuller (\$6.75)
- Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior.** David Sibley's new book which supplements his Guide to Birds in North American (\$43.75)

### GGAS BIRD SEED AND FEEDER SALE

**ORDER AND PREPAY BY March 21.**  
**PICK-UP on Friday, March 29 (3-6 pm) and Saturday March 30 (9-12 noon).** (All prices include sales tax.)

NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY	
TELEPHONE (DAY)	(EVENING)

SEED	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
GGAS' OWN MIX	20 lbs. \$ 9.50	
Contains only red and white millet and black oil sunflower seed	50 lbs. \$22.00	
VOLKMAN PREMIUM WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs. \$ 9.00	
Composed of only red and white millet - no sunflower seeds (no squirrels)	50 lbs. \$21.00	
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	25 lbs. \$ 9.00	
	50 lbs. \$16.50	
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER CHIPS (No waste!)	25 lbs. \$22.25	
NIGER (THISTLE) SEED	5 lbs. \$ 7.75	
	20 lbs. \$27.00	
FEEDERS		
DUNCRAFT SEED TUBE FEEDER 16"	\$30.25	
THISTLE FEEDER	\$10.75	
THISTLE STOCKING	\$ 3.25	
SQUIRREL-PROOF FEEDER	\$61.00	
HUMMINGBIRD (window)	\$10.75	
HUMMZINGER (saucer style, 16 oz.)	\$17.25	
HUMMINGBIRD (16 oz. bottle)	\$13.00	
SUET CAGE (2" x 5" x 5")	\$ 6.00	
SUET CAKE (11.75 oz.)	\$ 2.50	
SUB-TOTAL		
Please include a stamped and self-addressed envelope.		
CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS		
TOTAL		
Mail to and pick up at the GGAS office: 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702		

☐ Check enclosed    ☐ Visa    ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card No.:  
Credit Card Expiration Date:

Your purchases provide an important source of income to GGAS, helping us to continue our conservation, education and field trip activities. We look forward to seeing you on seed sale day.



# Save the Quail Winter 2002 Up-date

Last December, after months of careful preparation by LSA Associates, the GGAS "Plan for Restoring California Quail in San Francisco" was released to the public. As of this writing a resolution in support of our plan is being passed through the San Francisco Commission on the Environment with final adoption by the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor on the near horizon. The plan was given great press coverage in a fine December 27 article written by Chronicle Environment Writer Glen Martin. The article featured interviews with GGAS' Arthur Feinstein, and Damian Raffa from the Presidio Trust. There were also color photos of a quail habitat work party and one of the Presidio's "Quail in Area, Drive Carefully" signs.

"Cat versus quail" appears to be an irresistible story line. As a result of Glen Martin's article, the cartoon strip "Farley" by Phil Frank has been featuring Orwell the feral cat being tormented by thoughts of catching the

City's quail. One strip shows Orwell carrying a sign that reads "Just say NO to birdies!" a reporter asks "And did it Work?" Orwell replies "About as well as the Reagans' 'Just say NO to drugs' campaign. – Next question."

Since the last up-date, restoration teams have greatly changed the quail restoration site in the Presidio, now known as "Quail Commons." After our work parties carefully removed encroaching Ice plant from patches of native brush, a bulldozer came and removed all the rest of the ice plant for a one acre site. Once all the Ice plant was removed, and the native sand was revealed, the dozer created rolling contours in the once flat landscape. With the heavy earth moving completed, volunteer teams came back and started to put in the finishing touches on the area. Each team worked in a small area. First, the sand contours were refined by raking out the tractor marks. Then natives were planted, brush piles created, and annual seeds were cast. To date more than 4,000 plants have been planted!

And the quail seem to like their new habitat. However, there is more work to be done – and you can join us!

Quail Restoration Work Parties are planned for the last Saturday of each month. We will start at 9:00 AM and work until noon. We will provide the tools, and refreshments. There will be a before work bird walk starting at 8:00 AM. at the work site. Come out and meet some great people, learn about native plants and animals, and help Save the Quail!

As breeding season approaches, Save the Quail will be starting our second Quail Watch program. We need volunteers to watch over the quail and their chicks. We will also be having our first ever Quail Count on June 15 to help us determine where the quail go after the winter coveys break up.

For more details on these programs call me at (415) 664-0983 or get on our e-mail list by writing me at ash@sfo.com.

## GGAS Web Site Is A Winner

The GGAS **Home Page** – the key to opening a treasure trove of information and photos on GGAS activities, birding trips, education, resources, links and more – was the most popular page, used 13,004 times (34.25 percent of the total). A close second was **Birding Excursions**, which garnered 11,106 hits (29.25 percent of the total). This popular page offers descriptions of upcoming GGAS field trips, field trip reports, birding counts and observations, and delightfully informative articles on backyard birding by GGAS member Meg Pauletich. The **Chapter Information** page, which includes GGAS history, activities, volunteer environmental education, the meeting calendar through May 2002, and gifts and bequests, drew 10.5 percent

of last year's Web interest (4,012 hits).

The **Education and Other Resources** page – a rich composite of information on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Shoreline Project, birding classes taught by Alice Hoch in Fremont, a profile of dedicated GGAS volunteer Richard Bachenheimer, a history of birds and ornithology in California by GGAS member Harry Fuller, book reviews by Chapter members, and the GGAS Nature Store – drew 7.7 percent of last year's total Web hits (2,917).

Interest in **The Gull** page, where viewers can read current and back issues of the newsletter online, received 7 percent of the total (2,645). The **Conservation** page – which covers important issues such as the Cats Indoors campaign, "Yes" on Proposition 40, the proposed (and

opposed) San Francisco International Airport expansion, and the Save the Quail campaign – was tapped by 6.4 percent of Web viewers (2,426).

The **Latin American Committee** (LAC) page, which offers a wealth of information on conservation, education and eco-tourism in Panama and Mexico, received 5 percent (1,852) of total GGAS Web hits. This colorfully illustrated page describes GGAS' association with the Panama Audubon Society and Panama field trips led by LAC Chair Bob Risebrough, as well as GGAS work in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, which includes a "Pen Pals" program between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in East Oakland schools and children in San Miguel, and con-

*Continues on page 14*

Observations...

Continued from page 5

Park, Martinez, Jan. 27 (DWi). A *Spizella* sparrow thought most likely a very dull Clay-colored was studied at a yard in Lafayette, CC, Jan. 5-15 (SG). A Vesper Sparrow continued at Port Sonoma Marina, SON, Jan. 25-27 (CL; AW), while elsewhere in Sonoma Co. a female/immature Lark Bunting was seen briefly along Roblar Rd Jan. 5,

for the first county record in a decade (DSh). A wintering Grasshopper Sparrow was viewed Jan. 19-27 at RCP, SAC (JTr). At Palo Alto Baylands, several observers started the year off right on Jan. 1 with a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (RCi, KL, CC). Three of this salt-marsh speciality were at the Moon Glow Dairy, MTY, Jan. 1-4 (Moss Landing CBC, BW, DVP, MB). Eleven Swamp Sparrows were seen in 9 locations across 7 counties. The

Harris's Sparrow at RCP, SAC, continued through at least Jan. 19 (JTr, EH). Another was found near Loyalton Sewage Ponds, SIE, Dec. 31-Jan. 16 (MMe; WR, ZS), and a third was reported from behind Fort Ord, MTY, Jan. 16 (DSt). Longspur reports were few: 5 Laplands flew over V Street near Mad River Slough, HUM, Jan. 21 (ST), and a probable Lapland was heard-only at the traditional site at Rds 16 & 90B, YOL.

2001 Christmas Bird...

Continued from page 9

- 13 Red-throated Loon
- 2 Pacific Loon
- 41 Common Loon
- 2 \* loon, sp
- 218 Pied-billed Grebe
- 152 Horned Grebe
- 133 Eared Grebe
- 609 Western Grebe
- 31 Clark's Grebe
- 54 \* Aechmophorus, sp
- 99 Brown Pelican
- 4 Brandt's Cormorant
- 892 Double-crested Cor.
- 7 Pelagic Cormorant
- 15 \* cormorant, sp
- 60 Great Blue Heron
- 62 Great Egret
- 155 Snowy Egret
- 1 Cattle Egret
- 3 Green Heron
- 103 Black-crown Night-H
- 147 Turkey Vulture
- 1 Ross's Goose
- 1375 Canada Goose
- 40 \* goose, sp
- 22 Wood Duck
- 92 Gadwall
- 274 American Wigeon
- 1329 Mallard
- 2 Blue-winged Teal
- 38 Cinnamon Teal
- 185 Northern Shoveler
- 130 Northern Pintail
- 47 Green-winged Teal
- 642 Canvasback
- 26 Redhead
- 215 Ring-necked Duck
- 1 Tufted Duck
- 7018 Greater Scaup
- 1011 Lesser Scaup
- 6444 \* scaup, sp

- 7268 Surf Scoter
- 3 White-winged Scoter
- 2084 Bufflehead
- 885 Common Goldeneye
- 80 Barrow's Goldeneye
- 6 \* goldeneye, sp
- 8 Hooded Merganser
- 145 Common Merganser
- 42 Red-breasted Merg.
- 2802 Ruddy Duck
- 1 \* duck, sp
- 3 Osprey
- 7 White-tailed Kite
- 2 Bald Eagle
- 2 \* adult(s)
- 12 Northern Harrier
- 21 Sharp-shinned Hawk
- 21 Cooper's Hawk
- 2 \* Accipiter, sp
- 39 Red-shouldered Hawk
- 174 Red-tailed Hawk
- 5 \* Buteo, sp
- 3 Golden Eagle
- 3 \* adult(s)
- 41 American Kestrel
- 7 Merlin
- 7 Peregrine Falcon
- 138 California Quail
- 15 Clapper Rail
- 4 Virginia Rail
- 2 Sora
- 2011 American Coot
- 749 Black-bellied P.
- 1 Snowy Plover
- 13 Semipalmated Plover
- 179 Killdeer
- 14 Black Oystercatcher
- 230 Black-necked Stilt
- 875 American Avocet
- 38 Greater Yellowlegs
- 2065 Willet
- 19 Spotted Sandpiper
- 65 Whimbrel
- 144 Long-billed Curlew

- 1258 Marbled Godwit
- 5 Ruddy Turnstone
- 108 Black Turnstone
- 36 Surfbird
- 7 Red Knot
- 265 Sanderling
- 16598 Western Sandpiper
- 323 Least Sandpiper
- 856 Dunlin
- 14 \* peep, sp
- 51 \* sandpiper, sp
- 344 Short-billed Dowit.
- 1651 \* dowitcher, sp
- 26 Common Snipe
- 1 Bonaparte's Gull
- 11 Heermann's Gull
- 180 Mew Gull
- 1585 Ring-billed Gull
- 713 California Gull
- 16 Herring Gull
- 6 Thayer's Gull
- 1240 Western Gull
- 33 \* WesternXGla.-wing
- 207 Glaucous-winged Gu.
- 1136 \* gull, sp
- 200 Forster's Tern
- 2107 Rock Dove
- 899 Band-tailed Pigeon
- 848 Mourning Dove
- 3 Barn Owl
- 8 Western Screech-Owl
- 69 Great Horned Owl
- 4 Burrowing Owl
- 10 Northern Saw-whet
- 24 White-throat. Swift
- 753 Anna's Hummingbird
- 2 \* Selasphorus, sp
- 23 Belted Kingfisher
- 38 Acorn Woodpecker
- 23 Red-breast Sapsuck.
- 116 Nuttall's Woodpeck.
- 39 Downy Woodpecker

Continues on page 14



A female Black-headed Grosbeak was a winter surprise in a Los Gatos, SCL, yard Jan. 26 (AR). In Guerneville, SON, the **Common Grackle** (*Quiscalus quiscula*) continued throughout the period, accompanying black-bird flocks throughout several blocks in the vicinity of the town's Safeway store. Small numbers of Great-tailed Grackles are establishing themselves in central California; 10 were reported from MRN, MTY, SAC, and SCZ Co. locations this period. But a key outpost in their spread may be Stanislaus Co., where at least 100 but likely 215 birds were present (HR, JG). The county's first record for this

species occurred only 7 years ago. For wintering orioles, it was a good month, with 4 species reported. A male Orchard Oriole was found at Natural Bridges SP, SCZ, Jan. 22-27 (MSc; mob), only the 2nd winter record for SCZ. Single Hooded Orioles showed up Dec. 28 in a Carmel, MTY, yard (MCBC), and Jan. 23 at a hummingbird feeder in Redding, SHA – possibly the same individual that occurred here last winter (BC). Single Bullock's Orioles were at a MEN Co. yard Dec. 28 (FF); a Eureka, HUM, yard Dec. 29, and along Escalona St, SCZ, Jan. 26 (DS). The GGP, SF, Scott's Oriole continued

through at least Jan. 12 (mob).

Among Fringillid finches, single Cassin's Finches were reported from Big Basin Redwoods SP, SCZ, Jan. 3 (CE), and from Thompson Canyon in sw YOL, Jan. 20 (MP). Single Lawrence's Goldfinches were at a San Ramon, CC, yard Jan. 4-19 (LE); a Loomis, PLA, yard Jan. 15 (EP); and Moss Landing Marine Lab, MTY, Jan. 25 (JD). Seventeen were at Sweetwater Cr, EDO, Dec. 30 (AEn). And last but not least, 7 Evening Grosbeaks were found at Waddell Cr, SCZ, Jan. 10 (CE).

## Wood Warbler Sightings

### Tennessee Warbler

Dec. 28– L. Merced, SF mob  
Jan. 27 (continued)

Jan. 1–4 Casserly Cr, SCZ DS

Jan. 9 Central Santa Cruz, KA  
SCZ

Jan. 12 Moss Beach, SM RSTh

### Nashville Warbler

Dec. 28– Caledonia Park, MCBC; RF

Jan. 3 Pacific Grove, MTY  
(continued)

Jan. 1 Arcata, HUM GB

Jan. 1 Moss Landing  
Count Circle CBC

Jan. 6 Strybing JC  
Arboretum, GGP,  
SF

Jan. 6 Middle L., GGP, SF ASH

Jan. 9–27 Merrie Way, SF MU; DA

Jan. 12 L. Earl, Crescent JA, DRi,  
City, DN HRi

Jan. 18 Cliff & Grand, DS  
Capitola, SCZ

Jan. 18 St. Joseph's Church, DS  
(continued) Capitola, SCZ

Jan. 22 Natural Bridges MSc  
SP, SCZ

### Virginia's Warbler

Dec. 28 Caledonia Park, MCBC  
Pacific Grove, MTY

### Lucy's Warbler

Dec. 28 Caledonia Park, MCBC  
(continued) Pacific Grove, MTY

### Northern Parula

Dec. 29– Camanche Dam, DY; mob  
Jan. 8 SJ

Dec. 29– RCP, SAC JTr; SC

Jan. 12 (continued)

### Black-throated Blue Warbler

Dec. 30– Chrystal Terr, mob

Jan. 12 Santa Cruz

(continued)

Dec. 30– Berding St., GL; mob

Jan. 4 Ferndale, HUM

### Palm Warbler

Jan. 1 Moss Landing CBC  
Count Circle

Jan. 8–16 Las Gallinas TB, SDi  
Sewage Ponds,

MRN

Jan. 20 Arcata Marsh, JT, MW,  
HUM KR

### Bay-breasted Warbler

Jan. 22 Millie's Kitchen, CJ  
Lafayette, CC

### Black-and-white Warbler

Jan. 1 Merk Pond, SCZ DS

Jan. 27 Elkhead, Trinidad, DWa  
HUM

### Ovenbird

Jan. 26–27 Richmond/ LV  
El Cerrito

### Northern Waterthrush

Dec. 24 Allen Marsh, HUM PL

**Abbreviations for Observers:** BA, Brian Acord; DA, Dustin Alcalá; JA, Jan Andersen; JAn, Jenny Anderson; KA, Kumaran Arul; SA, Shelia Annis; BB, Bill Bousman; DB, Dennis Braddy; GB, Gary Bloomfield; MB, Matt Brady; PB, Polly Boissevain; SB, Steve Bailey; TB, Tim Behr; VB, Val Blakely; AC, Alex Cruz; BC, Bea Currie; CC, Chris Conard; DC, Dave Croft; HC, Hugh Cotter; JC, Josiah Clark; JCl, Judy Clingman; JCo, Jack Cole; LC, Les Chibana; PC, Pat Croft; RC, Richard Carlson; RCi, Rich Cimino; SC, Scott Crosbie; BD, Bruce Deuel; MD, Mike Danzenbaker; MDo, Matthew Dodder; ID, Judy Donaldson; SD, Stephen Davies; SDi, Sheila Dickie; AE, Al Eisner; AEn, Andrew Engilis; CE, Chris Emmons; EE, Elias Elias; LE, Lori Engilis; ME, Mark Eaton; MiE, Mike Eaton; CF, Christine Floyd; DF, Dave Fix; FE, Feather Forestwalker; RF, Rob Fowler; RFe, Rich Ferrick; RFO, Rick Fournier; JG, Jim Gain; MG, Mike Gamroth; SG, Steve Glover; TG, Tom Grey; ASH, Alan S. Hopkins; BH, Bill Hart; BHa, Barbara Harkleroad; CH, Cliff Hawley; EH, Ed Harper; MH, Melody Hamilton; RH, Rob Hewitt; RHe, Russ Heblack; SH, Steve Hampton; WH, Waldo Holt; AJ, Alvaro Jaramillo; CJ, Cathy Jacobs; CK, Clay Kempf; DK, Dan

Karvonen; JK, Jon King; CL, Calvin Lou; GL, Gary Lester; JL, John Luther; KL, Kimya Lambert; PL, Paul Lohse; RL, Robin Leong; RLb, Rick LeBadour; BM, Blake Matheson; BMe, Bob Mendell; GM, Gary Maddox; JM, Judy Maddox; KM, Kurt Mize; MM, Mike Mammoser; MMA, Matthew Matthiessen; MME, Martin Meyers; NM, Nancy Modeen; RM, Red Modeen; RMa, Rolf Mall; RhMa, Rhonda Magness; PN, Paul L. Noble; CP, Celeste Pryor; EP, Ed Pandolfino; KP, Kenneth Petersen; MP, Michael Perrone; AR, Amy Rufe; BR, Bob Reiling; DR, Don Roberson; DRi, David Rice; DRe, Don Reinberg; IIR, Harold Reeve; HRi, Helen Rice; JR, Jim Rowth; JRY, Jennifer Rycenga; KR, Kerry Ross; MR, Mike Rogers; RR, Ruth Rominger; SR, Steve Rovell; WR, Will Richardson; BS, Bob Smith; DS, David Suddjian; DSh, Doug Shaw; DSt, Dave Styer; ES, Emily Serkin; JS, John Sterling; LS, Lori Schrimp; MS, Mark Stirling; MSc, Michelle Scott; PS, Paul Saraceni; SS, Steve Shunk; ZS, Zach Smith; BT, Bob Tintle; CT, Clay Taylor; DT, Dorothy Tobkin; DTa, David Takeuchi; JT, Jim Tietz; JTr, John Trochet; GT, Gerry Thomas; LT, Lars Tomanek; RSTh, Ron S. Thorn; ST, Steve Tucker; MU, Myra Ulvang; AV, Ann Verdi; BV, Barbara Vaughn; CV, Chuck Vaughn; DVP, David Vander Pluym; FV, Frank Vanslager; LV, Lisa Viani; AW, Alan Wight; BW, Brian Weed; DW, Debbie Wong; DWa, Don Watenberger; DWe, Dave Weber; DWi, Denise Wight; DWo, Dave Woodward; JW, Jim White; LW, Liz West; MW, Matt Wachs; RW, Roger Wolfe; DY, David Yee.

Semicolons separate original observer(s) from subsequent observer(s). Abbreviation "mob" = many observers; "oob" = other observers. All information is compiled from rare bird alert transcripts and regional listservs; the author apologizes for any errors or omissions.

**Abbreviations for Counties and Others:** ALA, Alameda; AMA, Amador; CAL, Calaveras; CBC, Christmas Bird Count; CC, Contra Costa; Co., County; Cr, Creek; DN, Del Norte; EBB, East Bay Birds listserv; EDO, El Dorado; GGP, Golden Gate Park; Hwy, Highway; HUM, Humboldt; L, Lake; MCBC, Monterey CBC; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MRN, Marin; MTY, Monterey; n./s./e./w. = north/south/east/west; NWCRA, Northwest California Rare Bird Alert; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; PLA, Placer; PRNS, Pt. Reyes National Seashore; PT, pelagic trip; R, River; RCP, Rio Cosumnes Preserve; RCCBC, Rio Cosumnes CBC; Rd, Road; Res, Reservoir; RP, Regional Park; SAC, Sacramento; SB, State Beach; SBT, San Benito; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SF, San Francisco; SHA, Shasta; SIE, Sierra; SIS, Siskiyou; SJ, San Joaquin; SJPT, Shearwater Journeys pelagic trip; SM, San Mateo; SOL, Solano; SP, State Park; St, Street; STA, Stanislaus; StE, State Forest; YOL, Yolo.

# 2001 Christmas Bird...

Continued from page 12

25	Hairy Woodpecker
293	Red-shafted Flicker
63	* Northern Flicker
1	Dusky-capped Flycat
167	Black Phoebe
10	Say's Phoebe
2	Loggerhead Shrike
65	Hutton's Vireo
373	Steller's Jay
563	Western Scrub-Jay
339	American Crow
107	Common Raven
1058	Chestnut-back Chic.
165	Oak Titmouse
2339	Bushtit
149	Red-breasted Nutha.
25	White-breasted Nut.
120	Pygmy Nuthatch
57	Brown Creeper
183	Bewick's Wren
55	Winter Wren
22	Marsh Wren
311	Golden-crown Kingl.
910	Ruby-crown Kinglet
1	Blue-gray Gnatcatc.
122	Western Bluebird

294	Hermit Thrush
29421	American Robin
349	Varied Thrush
267	Wrentit
57	Northern Mockingbi.
23	California Thrasher
2506	European Starling
62	American Pipit
889	Cedar Waxwing
14	Orange-crowned War.
16	Yellow-rum.Myrtle W
340	* Yellow-rum.Audu. W
1184	* Yellow-rumped Wa.
119	Townsend's Warbler
1	Hermit Warbler
20	Common Yellowthroat
CW	Wilson's Warbler
2	* warbler, sp
374	Spotted Towhee
668	California Towhee
16	Rufous-crowned Spa.
63	Savannah Sparrow
267	Fox Sparrow
428	Song Sparrow
6	Lincoln's Sparrow
4	White-throated Spa.
1583	White-crowned Spa.
1387	Golden-crowned Spa.
3	Dark-eyeSlat-col. J

1934	* Dark-eyeOregon Ju.
883	Red-wing Blackbird
35	Tricolor Blackbird
423	Western Meadowlark
603	Brewer's Blackbird
11	Brown-headed Cowbi.
40	* blackbird, sp
63	Purple Finch
1184	House Finch
238	Pine Siskin
306	Lesser Goldfinch
212	American Goldfinch
936	House Sparrow
128517	Individuals
171	Species

CW = species seen during count week but not count day

\* = Bird entries not counted as species.

## Front cover...

Continued from page 1

We'll start at 9:30 AM with coffee, bagels and pastries and work until 3 PM. **Please bring your own lunch.** If you can only work half a day, that's fine too.

What is the job? Pulling and cutting weeds and putting them in debris boxes. We'll provide the tools. We urge you to bring gloves. It sounds easy but it is fairly hard work

so please make sure you are in reasonably good health. We do have about ten to twenty acres of weeds to eliminate so we need lots of people to make this all happen (they're in cracks in the runways, not solid fields of weeds so it's not as much as it sounds).

It's work, but it's rewarding. Thanks to our efforts the Least Terns will have a safe haven in which to raise their young.

**Please RSVP by Monday,**

**March 11 to let us know you are coming.** The Refuge is not yet open to the public so we have to arrange to let you into the Refuge and provide enough coffee and morning treats. **Call us at 510-843-2222 to RSVP and we'll send you a map showing you how to get onto the Refuge.**

**Only very heavy rain postpones the event. See you there.**

## GGAS Web Site...

Continued from page 11

tributions of reconditioned binoculars from GGAS to children in San Miguel.

And finally, the **Related Links** page, which takes users directly to all

Northern California Audubon chapters as well as dozens of other related organizations, drew 3 percent of the total (1,244).

"Everyone who taps into the rich resources of our GGAS Web site comes out a winner," says GGAS President Lcslic Lethridge, "The Web

sit is a marvelously fast and easy way to get extensive information on our organization, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our Webmaster Tomas Latham. Thank you Tomas!"



# News from Audubon Canyon Ranch — *from Betsy Stafford*

The idiosyncrasies of our California spring are upon us. One day a warm south wind brings a bevy of chortling robins to our meadows, the next day a biting cold rain sends everyone (except our feisty corvids, it seems) to bushy hideouts and leeward branches. (Has anyone really ever seen a wren tit or a butterfly hunkering down during a wild and wooly storm? Where do they really go?) But some things we can count on in January and February...like the arrival of the first Great Blue Heron in our Picher Canyon (January 8, this year) and the milkmaids and hounds tongue that welcome us back to our woodland trails. It's time to think of wildflower hikes at Bouverie Preserve, free lunch and workdays, and volunteering as a weekend host during the spectacular nesting season at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. Some

dates for you to calendar:  
At Bolinas Lagoon Preserve  
Our public season will run on week-ends from March 16 to July 14, 10am to 4 pm. Come see and hear the Great Blues, Great Egrets, and Snowies who nest each year atop our Douglas Firs and Redwoods. Better yet, volunteer to host on a Saturday or Sunday by calling either your Chapter representative, Bill Hering at 415-863-3625, or our office at 415/868-9244.  
At Bouverie Preserve  
Our popular Guided Nature Walks (led by our Docents and free to all) will take place during the wildflower season at our beautiful preserve in Sonoma's Valley of the Moon. With this year's good winter rains, the show should be spectacular. Dates are February 9, March 25, April 6, April 20, May 4, and May 11. Reservations are by lottery; call the office at 707/938-4554 to receive a form.

Public Workday, March 9, 9:30-2. Come for some work, play, and a free lunch. RSVP to the office so we can plan for enough food!  
Resource Management Days. Mondays on February 25, March 25, April 15, and May 20, 8:15-12:30.  
Audubon Ilike Day, May 18th, 9:30-1:30. A special day reserved for our Audubon Chapter friends. Call the office as soon as possible for a lottery form.  
Rebecca's Wildflower Seminar. April 13. \$30.00. Call 415/868-9244 to reserve. Our delightful biologist, Rebecca Anderson-Jones, will lead you though the Preserve, giving tips for using field guides, teaching some field i.d. characteristics and how to key a few common plant families.

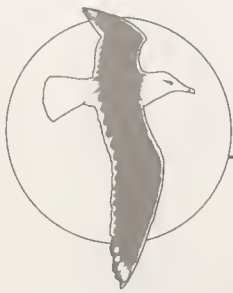
## Nominations For The GGAS Board Of Directors Mail Ballot Due April 18

The Nominating Committee of the current GGAS Board of Directors is pleased to nominate the following candidates for elected positions on the GGAS Board of Directors for 2002-2003. The new directors will take office at the

Annual Meeting in May.  
GGAS members in good standing may vote by completing the form of ballot printed below and returning it to the GGAS Office [2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702] by the ballot deadline, April 18, 2002.

Ballots received by April 18 will be counted in accordance with the choice specified for each candidate. Thirty-five ballots are needed to meet the quorum requirement under GGAS' Bylaws.

POSITION	NOMINEE	YES	NO
President	Miles McKay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recording Secretary	Patricia Gannon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corresponding Secretary	Carolyn Kolka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer	David Shunick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
East Bay Director	Leora Feeney- term ending '04	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	John Luther- term ending '05	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
West Bay Director	Allan Ridley - term ending '05	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## March Meetings

### San Francisco – Thursday, March 14th

Golden Gate Audubon Society's March San Francisco program will provide an opportunity to meet the live raptors of the Randall Museum. If you can, please join us for this special evening Thursday, March 14 at 7:00 PM at the Museum, 199 Museum Way, in San Francisco. We will sell tickets for a raffle that night to select one lucky person who will win the opportunity to help demonstrate handling and training techniques with one of the birds! Money raised will go to support the animals at the Randall.

Currently, the Randall Museum Live Animal Exhibit houses six raptors that are injured and non-releasable. Three species of owls and two species of hawks now live at the Museum and are cared for here. Museum staff will be on hand to explain their natural and personal histories, their handling and current care. We will enjoy a close-up visit with the Museum's "program" birds and receive a bonus personal tour of the Animal Exhibit after hours.

### East Bay – Thursday, March 21st

For the March East Bay program Alan Kaplan of the East Bay Regional Park District will talk about "Birds and Bugs." If you've ever been fortunate enough to talk to Alan at Tilden Nature Area, you know you're in for a great evening. If you can, please join us at the Northbrae Community Church on Thursday, March 21, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

### Notice of Program Change:

The San Francisco May program to see Bats at Strybing Arboretum has been moved from 7 p.m. Thursday, May 9th to Friday, May 10th because E. O. Wilson will be speaking at the Herbst Theatre on May 9th, sponsored by California Academy of Sciences. If you are interested in tickets for E. O. Wilson, you may contact City Box Office, 415-392-4400. We still hope you will be able to join us for the Bat program on May 10th.

**Spring Seed Sale Order Form Included**  
See Page 10.

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

**Golden Gate Audubon Society**  
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G  
Berkeley, CA 94702

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Library California Academy of Sciences  
Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco CA 94118

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Oakland, CA  
Permit No. 1702



**TIME SENSITIVE MAIL**



#### ROSTER

President – Leslie Lethridge '02  
Second Vice President – Miles McKey '02  
Recording Secretary – Pat Gannon '02  
Corresponding Secretary – Carolyn Kolka '02  
Treasurer – David Shunick '02  
West Bay Directors – Allan Ridley '02  
Nancy Smith '03  
East Bay Directors  
Leora Feeney '02  
Kay Carney '03

#### Committee Chairs

Conservation  
Jacqui Smalley 510-655-0998 \*  
Education – Allan Ridley  
FAWR – Leora Feeney 510-522-8525  
Field Trips – Susan Groves \* 510-654-5954  
Finance – David Shunick  
Hospitality – Ann Howard \*  
Latin America – Bob Risebrough  
510-549-2476  
Major Gifts – Allan Ridley 415-566-3241  
Membership – Judi Quan \*  
Nominating – Nancy Smith  
Program – Anne McTavish \*  
Publications – Peter Caldwell \*  
Publicity – Marjorie Blackwell\*  
\* Board of Directors '02

#### Other

Observations  
Jay Withgott 415-452-6763  
withgott@pacbell.net  
GGAS Webmaster  
Tomas Latham – tlatham@davidbowie.com  
Northern California Bird Box  
415-681-7422

#### Editor

Peter Caldwell 415-821-0212  
Peter\_Caldwell@attglobal.net

#### Copy Editor Ann Howard

**Executive Director**  
Arthur Feinstein 510-843-2222

Published each month except August by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Special third-class postage paid in Oakland, CA.

Send address changes to office promptly. Post Office does not forward *The Gull*. Monthly meeting: second Thursday West Bay; third Thursday East Bay, 7:00 p.m. Joint membership, local and national, \$35 per year (\$20 per year new members) includes *Audubon Magazine* and *The Gull*. Renewals should be sent directly to National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *The Gull* separately: \$10 per year, single issues \$1.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 15, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948. *The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month's issue.  
*The Gull* – ISSN 0164-971X

**Golden Gate Audubon Society**  
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G  
Berkeley, CA 94702  
Phone: (510) 843-2222  
Fax: (510) 843-5351

Office Hours:  
Tuesday – Friday 9-12, 1-4 (please call first)

Website: [www.goldengateaudubon.org](http://www.goldengateaudubon.org)  
e-mail: [ggas@compuserve.com](mailto:ggas@compuserve.com)

Printed on Processed Chlorine-Free paper  
60% Post-Consumer Waste Content

DESIGN BY HENRY PHAM

